NOTES ON FLIGHTS AND FOOD PLANTS OF PLEOCOMA

(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

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During the third rain of the 1952 season (November 15), 26 males of *Pleocoma nitida* Linsley were collected close to the new Cross County Highway, 6 miles E. N. E. of Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County, California. As reported by Linsley (Pan Pacific Ent., 17:148, 1941), the probable food plants are *Adenostoma fasciculatum, Arctostaphylos sp.*, and *Baccharis sp.* From my observations, the food plant probably is *Adenostoma*, possibly *Ceanothus*. The time of flight is similar to that of *P. conjungens* Horn (Hazeltine, *ibid.*, 26:188-189, 1950), lasting from 4:55 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. in an intermittent light rain. The males of *P. nitida* are fast flyers and not attracted to lights.

Dr. J. A. Comstock (personal communication) reports that the males of *P. puncticollis* Rivers usually fly in the second or third rain and both day and night. After dark, the males are strongly attracted to light. The dominant vegetation is *Adenostoma* and *Ceanothus,* with the few larvae found apparently closer to the rootlets of *Ceanothus*.

While collecting November 14, 1952, on the Point Reyes Peninsula, Marin County, California (6 miles north of the light house gate), W. V. Garner and J. D. Lattin observed a flight of *P. sonomae* Linsley. This began about 2 p.m. and lasted about 15 minutes, the flight ending shortly after the start of precipitation. Thirty-seven males were collected during this flight. On November 16, 1952, J. D. Lattin dug out one male and one female in the same area and observed a male flying at sunset in clear, cool weather. The only food plant available to the female was the grass in the area. This association is similar to that of *P. hirticollis vandykei* Linsley in the Patterson Pass area, where the larvae have been taken feeding on grass roots (Ritcher, *ibid.*, 23:11, 1950).

F. Beer (personal communication) reports both sexes of *P. dubitalis leachi* Linsley collected in an area of *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*.

It would appear that the males of the seven lamellate group (Linsley, *ibid.*, 22:61-64, 1946) are crepuscular flyers during precipitation while the five lamellate males fly almost any time and under a wider range of climatic conditions.